

**From:** Kevin Buterbaugh  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
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**Subject:** Microsoft settlement

Greetings,

As a concerned citizen of the United States, I would like to register my opposition to the proposed settlement between the DOJ and Microsoft. This settlement amounts to nothing more than a slap on the wrist. Even worse, it contains so many loopholes as to be totally useless. Of course, since Microsoft is the defendant, if a meaningful settlement were enacted, it would have to be vigorously enforced. Microsoft has repeatedly shown that it will do whatever it can get away with.

Microsoft has been convicted of breaking the law. An appeals court unanimously upheld that conviction. Why in the world is the DOJ letting them walk away scott-free??? About the only good thing that can be said about this settlement is that, unlike the proposed settlement in the K-12 Education suit, at least the DOJ is not proposing to reward Microsoft for breaking the law.

It is extremely obvious that those who have made this decision are totally ignorant of the ultimate consequences of their actions. Consider this: Microsoft now has a 90%+ monopoly in the desktop operating systems market. Let's just say this farce of a settlement is allowed to stand ... Microsoft will then continue to extend their monopoly ... they will inevitably someday achieve a 100% monopoly, not just in desktops, but servers as well ... when that day arrives, when 100% of the computers used by the United States government run a Microsoft operating system, who then really runs the United States, George W. Bush or Bill Gates? I would not be surprised to find that those who support this settlement are so ignorant about what they've done that they cannot even see that the answer to that question is the latter.

It is my sincere hope that those who support this settlement will realize their ignorance to this point and choose to pursue a meaningful settlement, before irreparable harm is done not only to the consumer (it's probably too late for that), but to our very government and way of life. Literally nothing short of the freedoms we hold dear is at stake.

Kevin Buterbaugh  
1500 Deal Road  
Burns, TN 37029

**CC:** attorney.general@po.state.ct.us@inetgw

